



HR1172

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize and honor the upcoming
4 80th anniversary of the founding of the National Pan-Hellenic
5 Council, Incorporated; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated
7 (NPHC) is currently composed of nine International Greek letter
8 Sororities and Fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,
9 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity,
10 Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta
11 Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta
12 Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Iota Phi
13 Theta Fraternity, Inc.; NPHC promotes interaction through
14 forums, meetings, and other mediums for the exchange of
15 information and engages in cooperative programming and
16 initiatives through various activities and functions; and

17 WHEREAS, On May 10, 1930, on the campus of Howard
18 University, in Washington D.C., the National Pan-Hellenic
19 Council was formed as a permanent organization with the
20 following charter members: Omega Psi Phi and Kappa Alpha Psi
21 Fraternities and Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta
22 Phi Beta Sororities; in 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta
23 Sigma Fraternities joined the Council; Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority

1 joined in 1937 and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity completed the list
2 of member organizations in 1997; and

3 WHEREAS, Early in 1937, the organization was incorporated
4 under the laws of the State of Illinois and became known as
5 "The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated"; since its
6 founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,
7 has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of
8 African-Americans and people of color around the world; and

9 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc., the first
10 intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for
11 African-Americans, was founded at Cornell University in
12 Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need
13 for a strong bond of Brotherhood among African descendants in
14 this country; the visionary founders, known as the "Jewels" of
15 the Fraternity, are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman,
16 Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison
17 Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy; and

18 WHEREAS, The Fraternity initially served as a study and
19 support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice,
20 both educationally and socially, at Cornell; the Jewel founders
21 and early leaders of the Fraternity succeeded in laying a firm
22 foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship,
23 fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

1 WHEREAS, Founded on the campus of Howard University in
2 Washington, D.C. in 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is
3 the oldest Greek-letter organization established by
4 African-American college-trained women; to trace its history
5 is to tell a story of changing patterns of human relations in
6 America in the 20th century; and

7 WHEREAS, After the organization's establishment over a
8 century ago, Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped to improve social and
9 economic conditions through community service programs;
10 members have improved education through independent
11 initiatives, contributed to community-building by creating
12 programs and associations, such as the Mississippi Health
13 Clinic, and influenced federal legislation by Congressional
14 lobbying through the National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and
15 Democratic Rights; the sorority works with communities through
16 service initiatives and progressive programs relating to
17 education, family, health, and business; and

18 WHEREAS, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., is a collegiate
19 Greek-letter fraternity with a predominantly African-American
20 membership; since the fraternity's founding on January 5, 1911
21 at Indiana University in Bloomington, the fraternity has never
22 limited membership based on color, creed, or national origin;
23 the fraternity has over 150,000 members with 700 undergraduate

1 and alumni chapters in every state of the United States, and
2 international chapters in the United Kingdom, Germany, Korea,
3 Japan, the Caribbean, Saint Thomas, Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin
4 Islands, Nigeria, and South Africa; and

5 WHEREAS, Kappa Alpha Psi sponsors programs providing
6 community service, social welfare, and academic scholarship
7 through the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation and is a supporter of
8 the United Negro College Fund and Habitat for Humanity; and

9 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., is the first
10 African-American national fraternal organization to be founded
11 at a historically black college; Omega Psi Phi was founded on
12 November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.;
13 the founders were three Howard University juniors, Edgar Amos
14 Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman, and their faculty
15 adviser was Dr. Ernest Everett Just; and

16 WHEREAS, The fraternity has worked to build a strong and
17 effective force of men dedicated to its Cardinal Principles of
18 manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift; since 1945,
19 the fraternity has undertaken a National Social Action Program
20 to meet the needs of African-Americans in the areas of health,
21 housing, civil rights, and education; Omega Psi Phi has been a
22 patron of the United Negro College Fund since 1955, providing
23 an annual gift of \$50,000 to the program; and

1 WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was founded in
2 1913 by 22 students at Howard University; these young women
3 wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic
4 excellence, to provide scholarships, to provide support to the
5 underserved, educate and stimulate participation in the
6 establishment of positive public policy, and to highlight
7 issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The major programs of the sorority are based upon
10 the organization's Five Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic
11 Development, Educational Development, International Awareness
12 and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political
13 Awareness and Involvement; and

14 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., was founded at
15 Howard University in Washington, D.C., January 9, 1914, by
16 three young African-American male students; the founders,
17 Honorable A. Langston Taylor, Honorable Leonard F. Morse, and
18 Honorable Charles I. Brown, wanted to organize a Greek letter
19 fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of
20 brotherhood, scholarship, and service; and

21 WHEREAS, From its inception, Phi Beta Sigma was conceived
22 by its founders as a mechanism to deliver services to the

1 general community, rather than gaining skills to be utilized
2 exclusively for themselves or their immediate families; this
3 deep conviction is mirrored in the fraternity's motto, "Culture
4 for Service and Service for Humanity"; and

5 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded on the simple
6 belief that sorority elitism and socializing should not
7 overshadow the real mission for progressive organizations, to
8 address societal mores, ills, prejudices, poverty, and health
9 concerns of the day; and

10 WHEREAS, Founded January 16, 1920, Zeta began as an idea
11 conceived by five co-eds at Howard University in Washington
12 D.C.: Arizona Cleaver, Myrtle Tyler, Viola Tyler, Fannie
13 Pettie, and Pearl Neal; these five women, also known as the
14 Five Pearls, dared to depart from the traditional coalitions
15 for black women and sought to establish a new organization
16 predicated on the precepts of Scholarship, Service, Sisterly
17 Love, and Finer Womanhood; it was the ideal of the Founders
18 that the Sorority would reach college women in all parts of the
19 country who were sorority minded and desired to follow the
20 founding principles of the organization; and

21 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Sorority has chronicled a
22 number of firsts; Zeta Phi Beta was the first Greek-letter
23 organization to charter a chapter in Africa (1948), to form

1 adult and youth auxiliary groups, to centralize its operations
2 in a national headquarters, and to be constitutionally bound to
3 a fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated; and

4 WHEREAS, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., was founded on the
5 campus of Butler University on November 12, 1922 in
6 Indianapolis, Indiana, by seven young educators: Mary Lou
7 Allison Little, Dorothy Hanley Whiteside, Vivian White
8 Marbury, Nannie Mae Gahn Johnson, Hattie Mae Dulin Redford,
9 Bessie M. Downey Martin, and Cubena McClure; the group became
10 an incorporated national collegiate sorority on December 30,
11 1929, when a charter was granted to Alpha chapter at Butler
12 University; and

13 WHEREAS, Founded in the midst of segregation, Sigma Gamma
14 Rho Sorority is the only sorority of the four historically
15 African-American sororities which comprise the NPHC, to be
16 established at a predominantly white campus; Sigma Gamma Rho
17 also supports two affiliates: the RHOERS, a group of young
18 women, and PHILOS, women who are friends of the sorority;
19 Soaring To Greater Heights of Attainment Around The World,
20 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., as a leading national service
21 organization, has met the challenges of the day and continues
22 to grow through Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service; and

23 WHEREAS, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., was founded on

1 September 19, 1963 at Morgan State University in Baltimore,
2 Maryland; the fraternity was founded by twelve men in the midst
3 of the Civil Rights Movement even though there were already
4 four other prominent historically black fraternities at the
5 time; and

6 WHEREAS, Since its founding date, Iota Phi Theta has
7 continued to grow and has become the fifth-largest
8 predominantly black fraternal organization in the United
9 States; as of now, there are over 35,000 members in the United
10 States and overseas; a key appeal of Iota Phi Theta is, as an
11 organization, it refuses to have its members bind themselves to
12 a defined fraternal image but celebrates the individuality of
13 its members; more importantly, its members continue to build
14 upon the fraternity's commitment to success and excellence with
15 individual and collective achievements in such fields as
16 politics, education, law, business, medicine, and the
17 performing arts; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Pan-Hellenic Council has
19 distinguished members in the General Assembly, Senator Donne E.
20 Trotter, Representatives Marlow Colvin and Al Riley (Alpha Phi
21 Alpha Fraternity, Inc.); Senators Mattie Hunter and Toi W.
22 Hutchinson, Representatives Annazette Collins, Monique D.
23 Davis, and Constance A. Howard (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
24 Inc.); Senator James F. Clayborne Jr., and Representatives

1 William D. Burns, William Davis, and Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr.
2 (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.); Representative David E.
3 Miller (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.); Senator Kimberly A.
4 Lightford and Representative Camille Lilly (Delta Sigma Theta
5 Sorority, Inc.); and Representatives Kenneth Dunkin and
6 LaShawn K. Ford (Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.); therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 recognize and honor the 80th anniversary of the founding of the
11 National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated and wish all the
12 members of the organization the best at this time; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the National President of the National
16 Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated, as a symbol of our respect
17 and esteem.